

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

growth effector molecules.

wherein one end of each tether is covalently linked to the substrate and each growth effector molecule is covalently linked to a distal end of a tether so that the growth effector molecule cannot be internalized by cells attached to the substrate, and the growth effector molecules are attached to the substrate in a concentration effective to enhance the rate of target cell growth without internalization of the molecules; and

wherein the one end of each tether covalently linked to the substrate is achieved using an attachment agent selected from the group consisting of cyanogen bromide, succinimide, aldehyde, tosyl chloride, avidin-biotin, epoxide, and maleimide, carbodiimide, and

maintaining the contacting cells and composition under conditions and for a time sufficient to cause the cells to grow,

wherein the step of bringing into contact comprises administering the composition to a patient in need of cell growth.

32. (Twice amended) A method of testing a compound for an effect on tissue comprising

bringing into contact the compound to be tested and a composition comprising a biocompatible solid substrate, biocompatible polymeric tethers,

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growth effector molecules, and

growing cells,

wherein one end of each tether is covalently linked to the substrate and each growth effector molecule is covalently linked to a distal end of a tether so that the growth effector molecule cannot be internalized by cells attached to the substrate, [and] the growth effector molecules are attached to the substrate in a concentration effective to enhance the rate of target cell growth without internalization of the molecules, and the end of each tether covalently linked to the substrate is achieved using an attachment agent selected from the group consisting of cyanogen bromide, succinimide, aldehyde, tosyl chloride, avidin-biotin, epoxide, and maleimide, carbodiimide; and wherein the growing cells are bound to the growth effector molecules:

incubating the compound and the composition under conditions promoting cell growth: and

observing the cells for any effect not observed in cells not brought into contact with the composition.

**Remarks**

Claims 14-17 and 32 are pending and rejected. Claims 14 and 32 have been amended in response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103, as discussed below. Support is found at least in the original claims and at p. 12, lines 6-9.